



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY SEEING ICE RIDGE DAMAGE ON AREA LAKES

Crow Wing County Land Services is reminding property owners affected by ice ridges this winter the options for repairing shoreline damage. Given the lack of snow and above average temperatures this winter, many lakeshore landscapes around the county have been affected by severe ice ridge damage this spring. Before repairing shoreline damage, property owners should consult the Land Services Department or their city/town zoning office for a review of applicable rules.

“Given this winter’s conditions or lack of, we are expecting that many property owners will be affected by annual ice ridges this year” stated Chris Pence, Environmental Services Manager.

The Crow Wing County Land Use Ordinance allows an annual ice ridge to be re-graded back to its original elevation without a permit when the work is done in the same year the ice ridge occurred. Annual ice ridges are defined as a linear mound of lakebed materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice within a calendar year.

It is important to remember that the soil from the annual ice ridge cannot be pushed back into the lake and must be graded back away from the lake. Erosion and sediment control measures such as a silt fence must be implemented before any work is started on the project.

Land Services encourages landowners to implement near shore buffers with native vegetation to help reduce annual ice ridges. The deep roots hold the soil in place and helps shorelines be less susceptible to ice action on lakes. The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District can be a technical resource for landowners interested in planting and establishing natural buffers. Visit <https://www.cswcd.org/>.

Any dirt moving activities on a historic ice ridge requires a shoreland alteration permit. Historic ice ridges are a linear mound of lakebed materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice over a period of two or more years upon which well-established trees, shrubs or grasses are growing.

Additionally, the Minnesota DNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may need to be consulted if restoration work extends below the ordinary high-water level (OHWL) of the lake.

Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Department at (218) 824-1010 or landservices@crowwing.gov to discuss shoreland alterations or other land use questions before starting any construction projects. Information about land use in Crow Wing County can be found at www.crowwing.gov.

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Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.